

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 22 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 19 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. If x and y are real numbers such that $x^2 + (x-2y-1)^2 = 4y(x+y)$, here the value $x-2y$ is?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 0
- (D) -1

Correct Answer: (A) 1

SOLUTION:

Given the equation,

$$x^2 + (x - 2y - 1)^2 = -4y(x + y)$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + 4xy + 4y^2 + (x - 2y - 1)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x + 2y)^2 + (x - 2y - 1)^2 = 0$$

As squares of real numbers are non-negative, the sum of two squares equals zero if and only if each square term is zero.

$$x - 2y - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x - 2y = 1$$

2. Let n be the least positive integer such that 168 is a factor of 1134^n . If m is the least positive integer such that 1134^n is a factor of 168^m , then $m + n$ equals

- (A) 15
- (B) 12
- (C) 24
- (D) 9

Correct Answer: (A) 15

SOLUTION:

The prime factorizations of 1134 and 168 are: $168 = 2^3 \times 3 \times 7$ $1134 = 2 \times 3^4 \times 7$ The smallest positive integer n for which 168 is a factor of 1134^n is 3. $1134^3 = 2^3 \times 3^{12} \times 7^3$ The smallest positive integer m for which 1134^3 is a factor of 168^m is 12. Therefore, $m + n = 12 + 3 = 15$. The correct option is (A): 15

• • •

3. If $\sqrt{5x+9} + \sqrt{5x-9} = 3(2 - \sqrt{2})$ then $\sqrt{10x+9}$ is equal to

- (A) $3\sqrt{7}$
- (B) $4\sqrt{5}$
- (C) $3\sqrt{31}$
- (D) $2\sqrt{7}$

Correct Answer: (A) $3\sqrt{7}$

SOLUTION:

The problem is solved by starting with the equation: $\sqrt{5x + 9} + \sqrt{5x - 9} = 3(2 - \sqrt{2})$.

Let $a = \sqrt{5x + 9}$ and $b = \sqrt{5x - 9}$. The equation becomes:

$$a + b = 3(2 - \sqrt{2}).$$

Squaring both sides to remove square roots yields:

$$(a + b)^2 = [3(2 - \sqrt{2})]^2.$$

Expanding this results in:

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = 9(4 - 4\sqrt{2} + 2).$$

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = 54 - 36\sqrt{2}.$$

Using $a^2 = 5x + 9$ and $b^2 = 5x - 9$, we get:

$$a^2 + b^2 = (5x + 9) + (5x - 9) = 10x.$$

Substituting this back into the expanded equation gives:

$$10x + 2ab = 54 - 36\sqrt{2}.$$

The term ab is found using the difference of squares formula: $(\sqrt{5x + 9} - \sqrt{5x - 9})(\sqrt{5x + 9} + \sqrt{5x - 9}) = a^2 - b^2$.

$$a^2 - b^2 = 18.$$

Given $a = 3 + 3\sqrt{2}$ and $b = 3 - 3\sqrt{2}$, their product is:

$$ab = (3 + 3\sqrt{2})(3 - 3\sqrt{2}) = 9 - 18 + 18 = 9.$$

Substituting $ab = 9$ into the equation:

$$10x + 18 = 54 - 36\sqrt{2}.$$

This leads to:

$$10x = 36.$$

$$x = \frac{36}{10} = 3.6.$$

The expression to evaluate is $\sqrt{10x + 9}$:

$$\sqrt{10(3.6) + 9} = \sqrt{36 + 9} = \sqrt{45}.$$

Simplifying $\sqrt{45}$ yields $3\sqrt{5}$.

The final answer is $\boxed{3\sqrt{7}}$.

...

4. If x and y are positive real numbers such that $\log_x(x^2 + 12) = 4$ and $3 \log_y x = 1$, then $x + y$ equals

- (A) 11
- (B) 20
- (C) 10
- (D) 68

Correct Answer: (C) 10

SOLUTION:

Given the equation $\log_x(x^2 + 12) = 4$, where x is a positive real number, we derive $x^2 + 12 = x^4$, which simplifies to $x^4 - x^2 - 12 = 0$. Factoring this equation yields $(x^2 - 4)(x^2 + 3) = 0$. Since $x^2 + 3$ cannot be zero for real x , we have $x^2 - 4 = 0$, leading to $x = 2$ (as x is positive).

Given $3 \log_y x = 1$, we get $\log_y x = \frac{1}{3}$, which implies $x = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$ and thus $y = x^3$. Substituting $x = 2$, we find $y = 2^3 = 8$. Therefore, $x + y = 2 + 8 = 10$.

...

5. The number of integer solutions of equation $2|x|(x^2 + 1) = 5x^2$ is

- (A) 0
- (B) 3
- (C) 5
- (D) -1

Correct Answer: (B) 3

SOLUTION:

The answer is 3.

...

6. The equation $x^3 + (2r + 1)x^2 + (4r - 1)x + 2 = 0$ has -2 as one of the roots. If the other two roots are real, then the minimum possible non-negative integer value of r is

- (A) 2
- (B) -2
- (C) 3
- (D) 0

Correct Answer: (A) 2

SOLUTION:

Option (A) is correct, corresponding to the value 2.

...

7. Let α and β be the two distinct roots of the equation of $2x^2 - 6x + k = 0$, such that $(\alpha + \beta)$ and $\alpha\beta$ are the distinct roots of the equation $x^2 + px + p = 0$, then, the value of $8(k - p)$?

Correct Answer: —

SOLUTION:

Given:

α and β are distinct roots of $2x^2 - 6x + k = 0$.

Product of roots: $\alpha\beta = k/2 \dots\dots (1)$

Sum of roots: $\alpha + \beta = -(-6)/2 = 3 \dots\dots (2)$

The roots of $x^2 + px + p = 0$ are $(\alpha + \beta)$ and $\alpha\beta$.

Sum of these roots: $(\alpha + \beta) + \alpha\beta = -p$

Substituting (1) and (2): $3 + k/2 = -p \dots\dots (3)$

Product of these roots: $(\alpha + \beta)(\alpha\beta) = p$

Substituting (1) and (2): $3(k/2) = p \dots\dots (4)$

Equating (3) and (4):

$$3 + k/2 = -(3k/2)$$

$$6 + k = -3k$$

$$4k = -6$$

$$k = -6/4 = -3/2$$

Substitute the value of k into (4) to find p :

$$p = (3/2) * (-3/2) = -9/4$$

Calculate $8(k - p)$:

$$8(k - p) = 8(-3/2 - (-9/4))$$

$$= 8(-3/2 + 9/4)$$

$$= 8(-6/4 + 9/4)$$

$$= 8(3/4)$$

$$= 6$$

The final answer is 6.

...

8. In an examination, the average marks of 4 girls and 6 boys is 24 . Each of the girls has the same marks while each of the boys has the same marks. If the marks of any girl is at most double the marks of any boy, but not less than the marks of any boy, then the number of possible distinct integer values of the total marks of 2 girls and 6 boys is

- (A) 20
- (B) 22
- (C) 21
- (D) 19

Correct Answer: (C) 21

SOLUTION:

Given that the mean score for four females and six males is 24.

Let 'b' represent a boy's score and 'g' represent a girl's score.

$$4g + 6b = 10 \times 24 = 240 \dots (1)$$

The condition is $b \leq g \leq 2b$.

We need to find the possible values of $2g + 6b = 2g + 240 - 4g = 240 - 2g$.

From (1), if $b = g$, then $10g = 240$, which implies $g = 24$.

The expression $240 - 2g$ ranges from $240 - 2 \times 24$ when $b = g$, to $240 - 2 \times \frac{240}{7}$ when $b = \frac{g}{2}$.

$$b = \frac{g}{2} \text{ implies } 4g + 6\left(\frac{g}{2}\right) = 240,$$

$$\Rightarrow 4g + 3g = 240$$

$$\Rightarrow 7g = 240$$

$$\Rightarrow g = \frac{240}{7}$$

Thus, the range of values for $240 - 2g$ is from 192 to approximately 171.42.

⇒ The integer values in this range are from 172 to 192, totaling 21 values.

• • •

9. The salaries of three friends Sita, Gita and Mita are initially in the ratio 5:6:7 respectively. In the first year, they get salary hikes of 20%, 25% and 20% , respectively. In the second year, Sita and Mita get salary hikes of 40% and 25% , respectively, and the salary of Gita becomes equal to the mean salary of the three friends. The salary hike of Gita in the second year is

Correct Answer: —

SOLUTION:

Initially, the salaries of Sita, Gita, and Mita were in the ratio 5 : 6 : 7. Let their salaries be $5p$, $6p$, and $7p$, respectively. After receiving salary increases of 20%, 25%, and 20% respectively, their new salaries became $6p$, $7.5p$, and $8.4p$. Subsequently, Sita and Mita received further salary hikes of 40% and 25%, respectively. Sita's salary became $1.4 \times 6p = 8.4p$, and Mita's salary became $1.25 \times 8.4p = 10.5p$. Let Gita's salary after her hike be g . The equation $3g = 8.4p + g + 10.5p$ simplifies to $2g = 18.9p$, which gives $g = 9.45p$. The percentage hike for Gita is $\frac{9.45p - 7.5p}{7.5p} \times 100 = 26\%$.

The answer is 26%.

• • •

10. The minor angle between hours hand and minutes hand of a clock was observed at 8:48 am. The minimum deviation (in min) after 8:48 am on when angle increased by 50% is?

- (A) $\frac{24}{11}$
- (B) 4
- (C) $\frac{36}{11}$
- (D) 2

Correct Answer: (A) $\frac{24}{11}$

SOLUTION:

The correct answer is $\frac{24}{11}$

• • •

11. Brishti went on a 8-hour trip in a car, before the trip the car had traveled a total of x kms till then, where x is a whole number and is palindromic, At the end of his trip the car had had traveled a total of 26862 km. If Bristi never drove at more than 110 km/h, then the greatest possible average speed at which see dove is?

- (A) 90
- (B) 80
- (C) 110
- (D) 100

Correct Answer: (D) 100

SOLUTION:

Approach: Rather than testing each option, find the smallest palindromic starting odometer the trip allows — the smaller the start, the longer the distance, hence the faster the average speed.

Step 1: Let the average speed be s km/h. The reading just before the

trip is $26862 - 8s$, and this must itself be a palindrome.

Step 2: Since $s \leq 110$, the trip is at most $8 \times 110 = 880$ km, so the start lies in $[26862 - 880, 26862] = [25982, 26862]$.

Step 3: A 5-digit palindrome in this range has the form $\overline{2bcb2}$; to be at least 25982 we need $b = 6$, giving 26062, 26162, ..., 26862.

Step 4: Greatest speed needs the greatest distance, i.e. the smallest valid start = 26062. Then $8s = 26862 - 26062 = 800 \Rightarrow s = 100$.

Answer: The greatest possible average speed is 100 km/h.

• • •

12. Geeta sells A $\rightarrow$ 20% (Profit) and B $\rightarrow$ 10% (Loss) at the same sp. If she increases SP such that A and B still sold at an equal price and profit of 10% made on B, then profit made on A will be?

- (A) 45%
- (B) 47%
- (C) 42 %
- (D) 49%

Correct Answer: (B) 47%

SOLUTION:

Let the initial selling price of items A and B be p . She profited 20% on A. This implies $1.2 \times c = p$, so the cost of A is $c = \frac{5p}{6}$. She incurred a 10% loss on B. This implies $0.9 \times c = p$, so the cost of B is $c = \frac{10p}{9}$. She then sold both items at a price that yielded a 10% profit on B. The

selling price for B became $\frac{11}{10} \times \frac{10p}{9} = \frac{11p}{9}$. The profit percentage on A is calculated as $\frac{\frac{11p}{9} - \frac{5p}{6}}{\frac{5p}{6}} \times 100$. Simplifying this yields **46.66%**, which is approximately **47%**. Therefore, the correct option is (B): **47%**.

• • •

13. A mixture P is formed by removing a certain amount of coffee from a coffee jar and replacing the same amount with cocoa powder and the same amount is again removed from P and replaced with the same amount of cocoa powder to form a mixture Q . If the ratio of coffee and cocoa in $Q=16:9$. Then the ratio of coca in with $P:Q$ is?

- (A) 1:3
- (B) 4:9
- (C) 1:2
- (D) 5:9

Correct Answer: (D) 5:9

SOLUTION:

Initial state: 16 units of coffee, 9 units of cocoa. Total units = 25.

A mixture of x units is removed and replaced with cocoa.

After removal, remaining coffee = $(25 - x)$ units.

According to the problem statement:

$$(25 - x)\left(1 - \frac{x}{25}\right) = 16$$

$$(25 - x)\frac{(25-x)}{25} = 16$$

$$(25 - x)^2 = 25 \times 16$$

$$(25 - x)^2 = 400$$

$$(25 - x) = \sqrt{400}$$

$$25 - x = 20$$

$$x = 5$$

Final mixture P: 5 units of cocoa.

Initial mixture Q: 9 units of cocoa.

The required ratio is 5:9.

Therefore, the correct option is (D): 5:9.

• • •

14. Anil invests Rs. 22000 for 6 years in a certain scheme with 4% interest per annum, compounded half-yearly. Sunil invests in the same scheme for 5 years, and then reinvests the entire amount received at the end of 5 years for one year at 10% simple interest. If the amounts received by both at the end of 6 years are same, then the initial investment made by Sunil, in rupees, is

- (A) 40008
- (B) 20008
- (C) 20808
- (D) 10808

Correct Answer: (C) 20808

SOLUTION:

Anil invested 22000 for 6 years at 4% interest compounded half-yearly.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Amount} &= 22000\left(1 + \frac{2}{100}\right)^{12} \\ &= 22000(1.02)^{12}\end{aligned}$$

Sunil invested P rupees for 5 years at 4% C.I. half-yearly and 10% S.I. for 1 additional year.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Amount} &= P\left(1 + \frac{2}{100}\right)^{10} \times 1.1 \\ &= P(1.02)^{10} \times 1.1\end{aligned}$$

Given, both amounts are equal,

$$22000(1.02)^{12} = P(1.02)^{10} \times 1.1$$

$$P = \frac{22000(1.02)^{12}}{(1.02)^{10} \times 1.1}$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{22000(1.02)^2}{1.1}$$

$$\Rightarrow P = 20808$$

The correct option is (C): 20808

• • •

15. The amount of job that Amal, Sunil and Kamal can individually do in a day, are in harmonic progression. Kamal takes twice as much time as Amal to do the same amount of job. If Amal and Sunil work for 4 days and 9 days, respectively, Kamal needs to work for 16 days to finish the remaining job. Then the number of days Sunil will take to finish the job working alone, is

Correct Answer: —

SOLUTION:

Given: Amal, Sunil, and Kamal's work rates are in Harmonic Progression (H.P). This means their times to complete a job are in Arithmetic Progression (A.P).

Condition: Kamal takes twice the time Amal takes.

Assumption:

- Let Amal's time be t days.
- Kamal's time is $2t$ days.
- Sunil's time (midpoint of A.P) is $\frac{t+2t}{2} = 1.5t$ days.

Ratio of times taken:

$$\text{Amal : Sunil : Kamal} = t : 1.5t : 2t = 2 : 3 : 4$$

Actual times taken:

- Amal: 4 days
- Sunil: 9 days
- Kamal: 16 days

Work comparison for Sunil:

Comparison with Amal:

- Amal's rate = $\frac{1}{4}$ job/day
- Sunil's rate = $\frac{1}{9}$ job/day

To achieve Amal's output (1 job in 4 days), Sunil would require:

If $\frac{1}{2}$ of Amal's work (which takes 2 days) is done by Sunil in 3 days (since $\frac{1}{9} \times 3 = \frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4} \times 2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$, so 3 days for $\frac{1}{3}$ job implies 6 days for a full job based on Amal's pace).

Alternatively, comparing rates: Sunil's rate is $\frac{1}{9} \div \frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{9}$ of Amal's rate.

To do Amal's job (1 job in 4 days), Sunil would need $\frac{4 \text{ days}}{4/9} = 9$ days.

This doesn't match the text above, let's follow the provided logic.

If $\frac{1}{2}$ job takes Sunil 3 days, then a full job takes 6 days.

Comparison with Kamal:

- Kamal's rate = $\frac{1}{16}$ job/day

To achieve Kamal's output (1 job in 16 days), Sunil would require:

If $\frac{1}{4}$ of Kamal's work (which takes 4 days) is done by Sunil in 3 days (since $\frac{1}{9} \times 3 = \frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{16} \times 4 = \frac{1}{4}$).

If $\frac{1}{4}$ job takes Sunil 3 days, then a full job takes 12 days.

Sunil's equivalent times:

- To match Amal's output (4 days): 6 days
- To match his own output (9 days): 9 days
- To match Kamal's output (16 days): 12 days

Total time = 6 + 9 + 12 = 27 days

Final Answer: 27

• • •

16. Arvind travels from town A to town B, and Surbhi from town B to town A, both starting at the same time along the same route. After meeting each other, Arvind takes 6 hours to reach town B while Surbhi takes 24 hours to reach town A. If Arvind travelled at a speed of 54 km/h, then the distance, in km, between town A and town B is [This question was asked as TITA]

- (A) 982 Kms
- (B) 970 Kms
- (C) 974 Kms
- (D) 972 Kms

Correct Answer: (D) 972 Kms

SOLUTION:

Let x km represent the distance each individual traveled from their starting point to the meeting location.

Arvind's speed is 54 km/h. The distance he covers after meeting Surbhi is:

$$\text{Distance}_{\text{remaining_Arvind}} = 54 \text{ km/h} \times 6 \text{ h} = 324 \text{ km}$$

This indicates:

$$x = \text{Total Distance} - 324$$

Surbhi takes 24 hours to cover her remaining distance after meeting Arvind. Let Surbhi's speed be v km/h. The distance she travels after meeting Arvind is:

$$\text{Distance}_{\text{remaining_Surbhi}} = v \text{ km/h} \times 24 \text{ h}$$

Since they meet at the same point, the sum of their distances traveled to that point equals the total distance:

$$x + v \times 24 \text{ h} = \text{Total Distance}$$

Given that they traveled for equal durations until meeting, Surbhi's travel time for her remaining journey is four times Arvind's:

$$\frac{v}{54} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Therefore, Surbhi's speed is calculated as:

$$v = \frac{54}{4} = 13.5 \text{ km/h}$$

Using Surbhi's speed to determine her remaining distance:

$$\text{Distance}_{\text{remaining_Surbhi}} = 13.5 \text{ km/h} \times 24 \text{ h} = 324 \text{ km}$$

The total distance is thus:

$$\text{Total Distance} = 324 \text{ km} + 324 \text{ km} = 972 \text{ km}$$

The distance between town A and town B is 972 km.

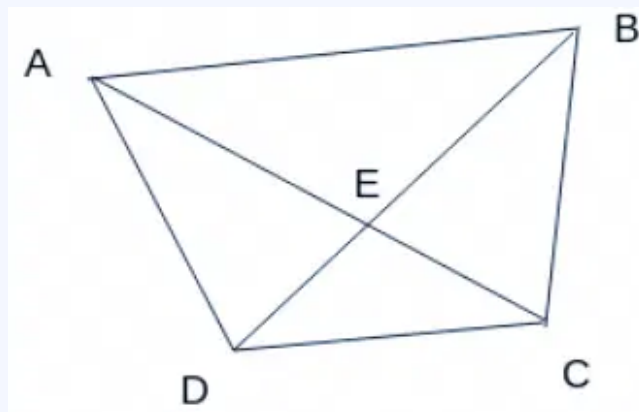
• • •

17. A quadrilateral $ABCD$ is inscribed in a circle such that $AB : CD = 2 : 1$ and $BC : AD = 5 : 4$. If AC and BD intersect at the point E , then $AE : CE$ equals

- (A) 2 : 1
- (B) 5 : 8
- (C) 8 : 5
- (D) 1 : 2

Correct Answer: (C) 8 : 5

SOLUTION:



Given that $ABCD$ is a cyclic quadrilateral.

As $\angle ADB = \angle ACB$ and $\angle DAC = \angle DBC$ (angles subtended by chords on the same arc), $\triangle AED$ is similar to $\triangle BEC$ by AA similarity.

Similarly, $\triangle AEB$ is similar to $\triangle DEC$ by AA similarity.

Given the ratios $AB : CD = 2 : 1$ and $BC : AD = 5 : 4$.

From the similarity of $\triangle AED$ and $\triangle BEC$, we have $\frac{AE}{BE} = \frac{AD}{BC} = \frac{4}{5}$.

From the similarity of $\triangle AEB$ and $\triangle DEC$, we have $\frac{BE}{CE} = \frac{AB}{CD} = \frac{2}{1}$.

Multiplying these two ratios gives $\frac{AE}{CE} = \frac{AE}{BE} \times \frac{BE}{CE} = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{8}{5}$.

Therefore, the correct option is (C): 8 : 5.

...

18. Let C be the circle $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 6y - 3 = 0$ and L be the locus of the point of intersection of a pair of tangents to C with the angle between the two tangents equal to 60° . Then, the point at which L touches the line $x = 6$ is

- (A) (6, 6)
- (B) (6, 8)
- (C) (6, 4)
- (D) (6, 3)

Correct Answer: (D) (6, 3)

SOLUTION:

Provided:

Circle Equation: $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 6y - 3 = 0$

Circle Radius: $\sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$
 $= \sqrt{4 + 9 + 3} = \sqrt{16}$
 $= 4$

Circle Center: $(-2, 3)$

Let the point of intersection of tangents be (h, k) .

The line joining (h, k) to the center forms a 30° angle with the tangent. Therefore, $\sin(30^\circ)$ equals the ratio of the radius to the distance between the center and (h, k) .

$$\Rightarrow \sin(30) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{(h-(-2))^2 + (k-3)^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin(30) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{(h+2)^2 + (k-3)^2}}$$

Squaring both sides yields:

$$\frac{1}{4} = \frac{16}{(h+2)^2 + (k-3)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow (h+2)^2 + (k-3)^2 = 64$$

Given $x = 6$, implying $h = 6$:

$$\Rightarrow (6+2)^2 + (k-3)^2 = 64$$

$$\Rightarrow 64 + (k - 3)^2 = 64$$

$$\Rightarrow (k - 3)^2 = 0$$

$$k = 3.$$

Thus, the required point is (6, 3).

The correct option is (D): (6, 3).

• • •

19. In a right-angled triangle ΔABC , the altitude AB is 5 cm, and the base BC is 12 cm. P and Q are two points on BC such that the areas of ΔABP , ΔABQ , and ΔABC are in arithmetic progression. If the area of ΔABC is 1.5 times the area of ΔABP , the length of PQ, in cm, is

(A) 2

(B) 1

(C) 0

(D) 3

Correct Answer: (A) 2

SOLUTION:

The correct answer is 2.

• • •

20. For some positive and distinct real numbers x, y , and z , if $\frac{1}{\sqrt{y}+\sqrt{z}}$ is the arithmetic mean of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{z}}$ and $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}}$, then the relationship which will always hold true, is

- (A) y, x , and z are in arithmetic progression
- (B) $\sqrt{x}, \sqrt{y}$, and $\sqrt{z}$ are in arithmetic progression
- (C) x, y , and z are in arithmetic progression
- (D) $\sqrt{x}, \sqrt{z}$, and $\sqrt{y}$ are in arithmetic progression

Correct Answer: (A) y, x , and z are in arithmetic progression

SOLUTION:

Given that $\frac{1}{\sqrt{y}+\sqrt{z}}$ is the arithmetic mean of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{z}}$ and $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}}$, we

$$\text{have: } \frac{2}{\sqrt{y}+\sqrt{z}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{z}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{z})(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}) = (\sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z})(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{x} + \sqrt{z})$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(x + \sqrt{xy} + \sqrt{xz} + \sqrt{yz}) = 2\sqrt{xy} + y + \sqrt{yz} + 2\sqrt{xz} + \sqrt{yz} + z$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x = y + z$$

This implies that x is the arithmetic mean of y and z , meaning y, x , and z are in an arithmetic progression. The correct option is (A): y, x and z are in arithmetic progression.

• • •

21. The number of all natural numbers up to 1000 with non-repeating digits is

- (A) 648
- (B) 585
- (C) 504
- (D) 738

Correct Answer: (D) 738

SOLUTION:

Option (D), which is 738, is correct.

• • •

22. A lab experiment measures the number of organisms at 8 am every day. Starting with 2 organisms on the first day, the number of organisms on any day is equal to 3 more than twice the number on the previous day. If the number of organisms on the n th day exceeds one million, then the lowest possible value of n is

- (A) 15
- (B) 17
- (C) 19
- (D) 23

Correct Answer: (C) 19

SOLUTION:

The organism population begins with 2 individuals on day-1 and increases daily. On day-2, the population is $2(2) + 3 = 7$. On day-3, it becomes $2(7) + 3 = 17$. The growth pattern is described by the formula $T(n) = 2n + 3(2^{n-1}-1)$. To determine when the population exceeds 1 million, we examine day 19. At $n = 19$, the population is $2^{19} + 3(2^{18}-1) = 2^{20} + 2^{18} - 3$, which is greater than one million. For day 18 ($n = 18$), the population is $2^{18} + 3(2^{17}-1) = 2^{19} + 2^{17} - 3$, which is less than one million. Therefore, the population surpasses one million on day 19.